

Hamer, Samuel Henry  
(Halifax, Yorkshire  
England)

1906-1908

Claremont Rd. Halifax, Yorks.  
June 25<sup>th</sup> 1906.

Mr Howland Wood.

Dear Sir,

Yours to hand; the  
tokens of which you send the  
tin-foil impressions are, —  
O. L. David Garrick, rev. an  
inscription. This is a mule,  
which has placed it at 214/  
91. The "mules" were struck, almost  
invariably after the die were  
used up for the purpose for  
which they were cut, hence  
the frequently wretched state  
of the impression. No 37/20 is  
an example, 39/35 also 102/267-  
and on to 274 are mules a, broken  
die being used for the obv of  
267- to 274. They were made by  
those having the dies, not necessarily



to the order of any token issuer,  
but simply, and solely for sale  
to Collectors; there being a  
perfect mania for collecting  
tokens at the time of issue.

The other one you send the  
impressions of was issued by  
Thomas Spence. (see Midx 511)  
Why Atkins omitted it I do not  
know. I have both. In fact, I  
have 214/91 on a small, also on  
a large plan, and also with a  
milled edge.

Last Dec I sent a P. Order  
for 5/- as subscription for the  
"Numismatist" for the present  
year. Jan'y to Dec inclusive.  
I have M<sup>r</sup> Heath's receipt, dated  
Jan'y 9-1906. I received the Jan'y  
& Feb. issue, but none since.  
I wish you would ask him to



2/

send the missing N<sup>os</sup> and  
to send them in future in  
an envelope, even if it has  
the end open for inspection—  
when only a wrapper is around,  
the pamphlets get damaged.  
Please note my correct address,  
they published it as "Clarendon  
Rd" in the Numismatist, but  
had no authority for so doing.  
A good "proof reader" would  
improve the paper; especially  
if he cut out such paltry  
jokes as "Hooper's restrikes."  
"chestnuts" would be a better  
word. I am pleased to  
hear from you. Do you want  
any Tokens or Token Books?

Yours respectfully,  
S. H. Hamer.



From J. H. Hamer, Bleak House, Claremont Road,

Halifax, Yorks.  
Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> 1907.

To Mr. Howland Wood.

Dear Sir. I duly received your letter, but as the last sentence intimated that you intended to write more fully I have waited for the letter. I am quite willing to do what I can in the cause of numismatics, but really I fail to see how I can be expected to try to get members for the American Association when I cannot get the publications myself! "The Numismatist" for July and Sept. came some time in Oct. I wrote for the Aug. N<sup>o</sup>. and got no reply except that, about the same time as the arrival of your letter, another copy of the Sept. N<sup>o</sup>. came along with the one marked October-November. I have written for the Aug. N<sup>o</sup>. again, but as yet have had no reply.

In the July N<sup>o</sup>. someone was asking for advice as to the kind of cabinet to get. I wrote out something but waited to see if any reply had been published in the Aug. N<sup>o</sup>. hence my contribution on the subject is still here.

I thoroughly enjoy a good joke, and week by week look through the pages of "Punch". but when it comes to printing poor jokes, and coarse personalities, in a numismatic paper, I have a feeling that it is high time to have a new editor.

If the object of the editor is to publish a "funny" paper, then say so right out, but I certainly do not see why the A. N. S. should stoop to adopt such as its organ. I am not advocating the idea



2) of a publication as costly as that of the British Numismatic Society, but I am sure that every thoughtful person must admit that "Hooper's Restrikes", and the wretched "pictures" on p. 262 & 299 are a disgrace, unless we are to regard the book as a "funny" publication. If the editor cannot rise to the occasion, then the Association should "drop it" and publish one of its own.

Notice the errors, I cannot even get my address printed correctly; then when the N<sup>os</sup> are posted, they are sent with a narrow, thin, piece of paper wrapped around which allows the corners to be damaged, and thus imparts to the copy a very common appearance.

On p. 289. I see a suggestion to "use some other design than the lamp now on the seal." Does this mean "to have a new design for the seal"? If so, and if you have not got one I am prepared to submit a design, on these terms. I make no charge; but the die and press for embossing any papers, etc., also the block for printing from, to be supplied by me. I have had dies cut, and am in touch with the actual manufacturer and can get first class work at very reasonable cost. I enclose a card, the token thereon shown, I designed, and the dies were cut to my instructions.

My idea is that the design should be of a distinct numismatic character; the idea of the lamp, as representing enlightenment, is as applicable to one science as another: it is worth noting that such a lamp would not diffuse much light. (is this a sly hint at the "numismatic light" diffused by the Numismatist? Hoping to have a long letter from you at an early date. Yours respectfully.  
(P.S. Design, free Press and die at cost price) L. S. Hamer.



From S. H. Hamer, Bleak House, Claremont Road,

To Mr Howland Wood.

Halifax, Yorks.  
Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1908

Dear Sir Yours to hand. The August N<sup>o</sup> along with the November-December N<sup>o</sup> came to hand just before the holidays; as there does not appear to have been any reply to the queries re Coin Cabinets, I enclose what I have written on the subject. I was going to send it to D<sup>r</sup> Heath. but as you have asked for it, I now enclose it. I correspond with M<sup>r</sup> H. S. Heal, he is not satisfied with the publication but as it is used by many small collectors, he is reluctant to make a stand against it, for their sake. There are one or two in Halifax who, in a small way, collect coins or tokens, but when I showed the pictures (?) or engravings (?) they simply laughed to think of such funny notions appearing in what purports to be, "An Illustrated Monthly devoted to the Science of Numismatics".

By D<sup>r</sup> Heath's portrait I can quite understand that he is the type of man to send the laudatory notices to, if the writer wishes them to appear in print. Oh! the pity of it! The joke of the missing N<sup>o</sup> with me is, that after writing, I generally receive a wrong N<sup>o</sup>! and hence have a few duplicates which have come to hand before I have been able to get the correct N<sup>o</sup>.

On page 408 of Dec 1906. I see a reference to the American Numismatic and Archaeological (sic) (The "o" is omitted) Society of New York. This is another society has it a journal or magazine?



2) Is the American Journal of Numismatics to which you refer, their publication? I certainly am sorry to learn that you are "laying a low fight" it is anything but creditable to the members generally. As regards the "pictures" if the paper is to be a "funny one" let the Editor state such on the cover. Then we can tell what to expect. They certainly are a disgrace to any Scientific Paper. The illustration of the Seal on P. 403 of 1906. is about on a par with the "pictures". A Roman lamp resting on "Ancient History" is scarcely appropriate for a country like America, and, but for the legend, there is nothing in the design to indicate that it belongs to a Numismatic Association; the motto is equally applicable to some other science.

I have made no "spread" about my appointment as Foreign Secretary. I will do what I am able, but the limit is, to a great extent determined by the Editor.

I enclose a copy of the Syllabus of the Halifax Antiquarian Society. This Society originated in a thought which entered my mind one day while going home. The original intention simply being to get a few people together who would be interested to visit places of historic interest about Halifax, and which places would not be accessible to individuals.

I put a letter in the local paper and in Nov. 1900 the first meeting was held in this house, after a meeting in Dec, the Inaugural Meeting was held and it was at once seen that the scope of operation was much larger than anything at first intended. I raised no protest, and since then, when some specially representative gathering has been held, I have thought "What great events from little causes spring."



3 From the same standpoint Dr Heath should regard the Numismatist. it would be far more creditable to him, and if it is not a financial success, why should he be at a continued loss for the sake of the members? The design on the front of the Syllabus is as follows. — The Gibbet represents the Ancient instrument of decapitation in use in Halifax between 1568 and 1632. during which period there was preserved the names of those who suffered. but probably it was in use at an earlier period. anyone being convicted of having stolen goods of the value of thirteen pence halfpenny, were executed. The old axe is still preserved at the Manor Court House at Wakefield. The bell in the distance is the one on the east of the town. "Beacon Hill". The Crest has reference to the Parish Church of St John the Baptist. The design for the lamb I took generally from a very old French coin, the Flaf or pennon has on it a small letter "H" which may be regarded as referring to "Halifax" or the designer. The hand comb, and hand-loom shuttle have reference to the woollen trade, which was for years the staple industry of the district.

A friend Mr J Naylor who left Halifax for America, and who now is in Seneca City sent me a cutting from the Boston Globe, having a description and illustration of "D. A. N. Blodgett's



4 "Roman Clock." The way in which the newspaper reporter, "made history" was second only to Hooper's "Restrikes": most extraordinary, and absolutely unreliable, the clock was of the period about 1700 to 1715, and all right as such; but anyone who understood anything of the subject, would feel that the value of the clock was really depreciated by the "puffing" of the copy-writer.

I sent Dr Blodgett a letter fully explaining the ornamentation, which the writer of the article had made to belong to the monastic period of English history: as this was only on Dec 9<sup>th</sup> he has perhaps not had time to send a reply which would have reached me by now.

I refer to this because it is a parallel with what appears elsewhere.

I have a duplicate copy of a scarce little book published in 1761 on The Halifax Gibbet Law with a view of the Gibbet and the hill in the distance, as a frontispiece. The price including postage is 15/-

This mode of execution at Halifax was discontinued long before the guillotine was introduced into France.

With Best Wishes for a Happy New Year.

Yours respectfully,  
S. A. Hamer.



From J. H. Hamer, Bleak House, Claremont Road,

To Mr. Howland Wood.

Halifax, Yorks.  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1908.

Dear Sir. Several times I have got out your letter of June 26 intending to reply to it, and invariably something has turned which has needed prompt attention. I now reply. I have heard from Mr. Farran Herbe of the death of Dr. Heath: also an intimation that some arrangements will need to be made as regards the Numismatist. Knowing your views, I feel sure that you will use your influence to bring it up to a higher standard than it has yet reached. I see that my article on the cabinet has appeared;—but my trays are made of Canary-wood, or American white-wood, not a kind of mahogany. As regard the British Coinage, changes do not often occur. Comments are made, and letters appear in the Papers, but the man in the street does not care about the design, all that interest him, is "getting hold". In this country, some people, from vanity, or as a fad, or by reason of being asked by a friend whom they do not like to refuse, join societies, the working of which they take no part or interest in. For any Society to keep in good working order, it is necessary for the officers, and particularly the Secretary, to be thoroughly alive and in touch with the work. I note your remarks re coin-collecting, and the study thereof. My line is



2) The token coinage, (see enclosed card) these do not date back to further than the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but they are a most interesting series. I am told that a number of the 17<sup>th</sup> century tokens are bought by Americans and Canadians, who are interested by reason of the name of town or of issuer.

Those of the 18<sup>th</sup> century certainly are a fine lot, they first appealed to my collecting faculty. I have a good collection of duplicates, also of duplicate books, these I propose to dispose of this year. I note your remarks about meeting collectors when in Europe: there is much difference between some people and others, if I come across one of the "ice-berg" character I do not waste time and vitality on him, but reserve my attention for some more congenial creature.

I have a fancy for repairing and restoring Long-case clocks, and having visited a number of people who have such. I have got a number of friends who are interested in such, if you know anyone who requires a specimen tell him to send on Particulars as to his choice: but tell him to keep clear of Carved oak cases, the oak is all right, but the carving is modern.

As regards the specimens of which you send rubbing, I have not seen any: they somewhat resemble the "Imitation Royal," but are without the legend.

Yours respectfully,  
S. H. Hamer.



From J. H. Hamer, Bleak House, Claremont Road, Halifax.

To Mr Howland Wood

July 22 1908.

Dear Sir. I have had a letter from Mr B. Max Mehl, in reference to publishing in his "Monthly" a paper on "The Token Coinage of Great Britain and Ireland". If you wish to have it for the Numismatist, arrangements may be made between you, so that it will simultaneously appear. Perhaps you will write to him, re same, and let me know.

Yours respectfully.  
J. H. Hamer.



# POST CARD.

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



Howland Wood Esq  
93 Perry St  
Brookline  
Mass. U. S. A.